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Arts and Humanities: Funding Levels (1976): Memorandum 01

Donald Elisburg

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COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
UNITED STATES SENATE

MEMORANDUM

July 26, 1976

TO: Livingston Biddle ✓ Ellen Hoffman
Patria Forsythe Richard Johnson
Jean Frohlicher James Murphy
Larry Gage Jonathan Steinberg
LeRoy Goldman Anne Strauss

FROM: Donald Elisburg
General Counsel 

RE: Requests for the Committee to Meet

I would like to call your attention to the remarks of the Majority Leader in the Congressional Record of Friday, June 23 concerning requests for Committees to meet during this session of the Senate.

The Leadership has specified its guidelines for authorizing Committees to meet and has further stated that requests should come through the Committee Chairman rather than from the Subcommittee Chairmen.

In order not to jeopardize the ability of this Committee to continue its legislative activity for the remainder of the Congress, I would appreciate your abiding by this procedure and submit requests for permission to meet through this office. We will endeavor to expedite these requests.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE July 23, 1976

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I am about to make a unanimous consent request, but before I do, I would like to inform the Senate that the standing committee chairmen met this afternoon in my office to discuss the question of committee meetings. On June 22, the Democratic Policy Committee voted unanimously to prohibit committee meetings except for nominations and "extraordinary" legislation. This action was concurred in by the minority leadership and has been in effect since that date.

Today, it was agreed that in addition to hearings on nominations, that oversight hearings will be permitted as this is a continuing function of the Senate, throughout the year. Hearings to be held to an absolute minimum are those dealing with reporting of new legislation to

the Senate floor. Substantive legislation should have been completed prior to May 15 under the new budget procedures, and the period from now until the end of this Congress will be primarily devoted to appropriations bills, the tax bill, and those matters considered extraordinary.

During the chairmen's meeting, it was suggested that committees could meet beginning at 8 in the morning, after the Senate has adjourned for the day, and on weekends, if necessary.

The chairmen have unanimously agreed to review their requirements for meetings and hold them to an absolute minimum. This, of course, does not include the Finance Committee, the Appropriations Committee, or the Budget Committee. Requests to the leadership will come from the chairman of the full committee only rather than from subcommittee chairmen as has been the case in some instances.